

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 08414 131643Z
ACTION EUR-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 EURE-00 /004 W
-----131701Z 050993 /47

P 131515Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8629

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 8414

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FOR GARRISON FROM MATLOCK

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OGEN
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL INFORMAL

1. RE STATE 135721 (CONSULAR REVIEW): WE DID NOT REALLY EXPECT DEPARTMENT TO HOLD BACK CALIFORNIA SALES TAX EXEMPTION FROM SOVIET CONGEN PERSONNEL. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT WE MAY BE ABLE TO GET SOMETHING FROM THE SOVIET SIDE IN EXCHANGE, PROVIDED THEY DO NOT KNOW THAT THEY ARE GOING TO GET THE TAX EXEMPTION ANYWAY. WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE TO HOLD BACK IMPLEMENTATION AND PUBLICITY ABOUT IT FOR TWO WEEKS WHICH WE ESTIMATE IS THE MAXIMUM TIME IT WILL TAKE US TO GET SOVIET QUID FOR THE TAX EXEMPTION? HOPEFULLY. THERE HAS NOT YET BEEN ANY PUBLICITY ON THE MATTER.

2. WE SHALL PASS ON TO THE SOVIET SIDE THE PROVISIO RE CHAIRMEN AND DEPUTY CHAIRMEN OF USSR STATE COMMITTEES MENTIONED IN PARA 3 OF REFTTEL. RE PARA 4, WE HOPE THAT DEPARTMENT WILL BE ABLE TO STRETCH VISA REGULATIONS A BIT AND GRANT EMBASSY AUTHORITY TO ISSUE DIPLOMATIC "A" VISAS TO DEPUTIES OF USSR SUPREME SOVIET, ALTHOUGH WE ARE WELL AWARE THAT THIS IS A STICKY ISSUE. THAT APPEARS TO BE THE ONLY WAY WE'LL BE ABLE TO GET THE TEN EXIT/ENTRY POINTS FOR OFFICIAL
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PERSONNEL.

3. FOR MARSHALL BREMENT: WE HAVE ASKED INTERDEAN BY TELEX TODAY TO MAIL YOU THE PACKING LISTS FOR YOUR EFFECTS. THE PACKER, NOT THE EMBASSY, KEEPS SUCH LISTS.

4. FOR SHERROD MCCALL FROM DARRYL JOHNSON:

A. SORRY TO BOTHER YOU WITH MORE NUTS AND BOLTS, BUT DEPARTURE TIME IS DRAWING NIGH AND I HAVE SEVERAL UNRESOLVED TRAVEL PROBLEMS. FIRST, I HAVE NOT HEARD FROM EE ON MY PROPOSED TRIP TO YUGOSLAVIA, BUT YOUR EARLIER MESSAGE INDICATED THAT THE DEPARTMENT DID NOT FAVOR MY WAITING TO GO SOON AFTER REPORTING FOR DUTY IN WASHINGTON. THAT ARRANGEMENT WOULD STILL BE MY PREFERENCE, BECAUSE IT WOULD FIT LEAST AWKWARDLY WITH MY OTHER PLANS. BUT IF GOING LATER IS DEFINITELY OUT, I COULD GO TO YUGOSLAVIA FOR ABOUT A WEEK STARTING JULY 4 OR 5, IF THE DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY BELGRADE AGREE. THEN I WOULD PLAN TO COME BACK TO MOSCOW FOR A DAY OR TWO BEFORE HEADING EAST.

B. SECONDLY, I HAVE NOT YET HAD A RESPONSE TO MY MESSAGE ABOUT CONSULTATIONS IN PEKING, HONG KONG AND TOKYO AND ABOUT MY PRC VISA (MOSCOW 6949). I WOULD LIKE ADVISE SOONEST ON WHERE WE STAND.

C. ANOTHER QUESTION ABOUT THE PEKING PART OF THE TRIP. A P&C (USIA) OFFICER, ROBERT MILLER, WISHES TO ACCOMPANY ME TO PEKING. HE HAS THE APPROVAL OF HIS OFFICE HERE AND HIS PLAN WOULD BE TO GO WITH ME AS FAR AS PEKING, STAY A COUPLE OF DAYS THERE, THEN FLY BACK DIRECTLY TO MOSCOW. HE, OF COURSE, NEEDS STATE/USIA ACQUIESCENCE FOR THIS TRAVEL AND SUPPORT FOR THE PRC VISA. THE MILLERS NATURALLY WANT TO GET THE PROCESS STARTED
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ASAP, AND WILL BE SENDING IN A MESSAGE LATER THIS WEEK. BUT WE WANTED YOU TO KNOW THE BACKGROUND AHEAD OF TIME. I WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE ANY ASSISTANCE/INFORMATION/ADVICE YOU CAN PROVIDE ON ANY OF THESE MATTERS.
TOON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MOSCOW08414
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770210-0573
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770663/aaaacdla.tel
Line Count: 102
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8b2d4f7e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2176801
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OFFICIAL INFORMAL
TAGS: OGEN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8b2d4f7e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009